

Nevada English Language Arts Clarification of Grade Level Expectations

Based on the Adopted
2007 ELA Content
Standards



Nevada Department of Education

Why:

- The Federal Compliance Agreement requires that the Nevada Department of Education indicate specific grade level expectation aligned to the ELA standards for high school.
- To be compliant, the standards must show a clear distinction between grades 8 and high school.
- To be compliant the ELA standards have been “clarified” grades K-12 to ensure consistency and developmental appropriateness.
- Each grade level now indicates skills that students must master at each grade level.
- The compliance agreement also requires that the alternative assessment reflect these distinctions at grades K-12.

What

Compliance agreement:

- Nevada cannot assign 8th grade standards to 12th grade assessment items.
- Alternate assessment (NASAA) must reflect the state academic content standards.

Challenges for Reading meeting the compliance agreement:

- Adopted 2007 ELA Standards use repetitive language and test the same skills/concepts in consecutive grade levels.
- NASAA-R must reflect the state academic content standards at grade levels 3-12.

December Workshop:

- The “clarification” workshop was held during the week of December 15-19, facilitated by Jan Shienker, a National expert on state standards.
- All 17 counties were represented.
- Participants were selected based on content expertise, demographics, and knowledge of the adopted 2007 ELA standards.
- General Education, Special Education, and English as a Second Language teachers participated to ensure state-wide representation and alignment with the Federal Compliance Agreement.
- To ensure common understanding and knowledge NDE invited both Measured Progress and WestEd (our assessment contractors) to attend the workshop.

Process used at the December Workshop:

- Training on “clarifying” established standard documents was provided.
- Participants worked in grade span groups: K-2; 3-5; 6-8; and High School to complete.
- Whole group vertical and horizontal alignment occurred throughout the process to ensure compliance actions.

Results of December Workshop:

- Less language at the indicator level due to the elimination of duplication of skills and language.
- Each grade level now indicates skills that students must master at each grade level.
- No additions or deletions of skills were made.
- Once skills are mastered, they will not be assessed at subsequent grade levels.
- The clarification document is a companion document to the 2007 ELA adopted standards.
- Standards 2 (reading strategies), 7 (listening) and 8 (speaking) are not assessed and are therefore not included in the clarification document.

Key Points

- The purpose of teaching the 2007 ELA Standards is to ensure exceptional readers and writers.
- The Nevada 2007 ELA standards are the curriculum framework.
- Standards are not the curriculum.
- Reading and writing are recursive processes.
- The clarification document indicates **when** skills will be assessed on state assessments.
- Standards indicate what a student should know and be able to do and **when**.

Impact on Instruction

- Curriculum should be based on the 2007 ELA Standards; teachers need to ensure that students master grade level skills as referenced in the clarification document.
- Formative classroom assessments should be used to determine baseline data for schools and current cohort groups for reading and writing.
- Provide ongoing individual and constructive feedback.
- Teachers can scaffold student learning using the continuum of skills within the ELA Standards.
- Use reading strategies as instructional tools, leading to competent readers.
- Use analytic traits as an instructional tool, leading to a finished writing piece.

Impact on Assessment

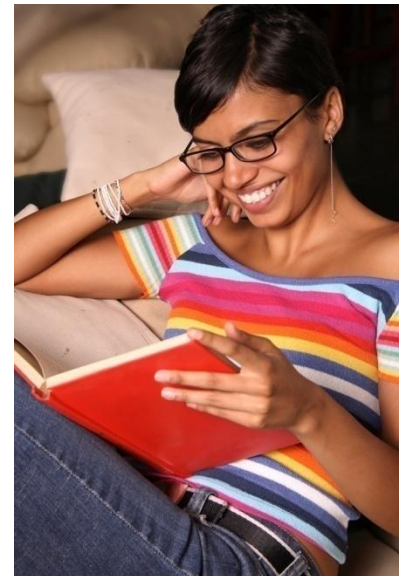
- Reading: The state assessment will assess grade level skills as outlined in the clarification document.
- Writing: The state will assess writing at the fifth, eighth, and HS levels as is completed now.
 - Fifth grade writing prompts will remain the same and be scored to a revised Analytic Rubric (2012).
 - Eighth grade writing prompts will be Expository (2011) and scored to a Holistic Rubric (2011).
 - High School prompts will be Expository and Persuasive (2011) and scored to a revised Holistic Rubric (2012).

Timeline

- In December of 2008 a workshop was held with representation of stakeholders from across the state to begin the “clarification process.”
- NDE has been in constant communication with our USDOE technical advisor to ensure compliance in 2011.
- NDE will hold dissemination workshops in all 4 regions of the state starting in April/May in 2009.
- Districts will have one year to inform teachers about the ELA clarification document and its impact on assessments.
- Field test items based on the clarification document will appear on the spring 2010 assessment.
- Reading operational items will appear on the spring of 2011 assessment.
- Workshop information will be placed on the DOE website by late May 2009.
- Writing prompt changes in 2011(HS) and rubric revisions 2012 (5th, HS).
- Eighth grade prompt changes and rubric changes—both 2011.

Questions and Answers

- Please take a few minutes to look through the ELA clarification document.



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